

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS FOR THE
PURPOSE OF VALIDATING THE SPECIFIC NAME
"MINIMUS" MILLER (J. S.), 1826, AS PUBLISHED IN THE
COMBINATION "BELEMNITES MINIMUS" (CLASS
CEPHALOPODA, ORDER DIBRANCHIA)**

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)823)

The name *Belemnites minimus*, or more recently *Neohibolites minimus*, is in general current use for a belemnite of widespread and common occurrence in the Gault and Red Chalk (Cretaceous, Albion) of England and Northwest Europe. The name is also used eponymously in stratigraphical geology, e.g. the *minimus* Marls of Speeton, Yorkshire; the "argiles à *minimus*" of France; the "*minimus* Thon" of Northwest Germany. The species is further one of the standard fossils used in teaching palaeontology to students.

2. The name *Belemnites minimus* is commonly attributed to Martin Lister, but his usage (1678: *Historia animalium Angliae*: 227, pl. xxvii, fig. 32) was pre-Linnean and polynominal. He was describing a species from the Red Chalk of Lincolnshire which is the same as that for which the name is now used.

3. The first available name given to this species is *Belemnites listeri* G. A. Mantell (1822: *The Fossils of the South Downs; or Illustrations of the Geology of Sussex*: 88, pl. xix, figs. 17. 18. 23). The combination *Belemnites minimus* was first used binominally four years later by J. S. Miller (1826, *Trans. geol. Soc. Lond.* (2) 2: 62, pl. ix, fig. 6), who cited *B. listeri* Mantell in his synonymy. *B. minimus* Miller and *B. listeri* Mantell are thus synonymous names for one species and they are so accepted by specialists.

4. Although there has recently been an increasing tendency for *B. listeri* Mantell to be adopted, the name *B. minimus* has been used in 48 out of 57 post-Linnean references to the species quoted by von Bülow-Trummer (1920: *Fossilium Catalogus* I, part 11: 159). It is quoted as *B. listeri* in six of these references and in two as *B. attenuatus* Sowerby (J. de C.). A well-known work of reference on dibranchiate cephalopods also uses the specific name *minimus* (Naef (A.), 1926, *Die Fossilen Tintenfische*, Jena: 255).

5. In view of this evidence for the preponderant usage of the specific name *minimus*, it is held desirable that this name (as published in the combination *Belemnites minimus* by Miller (J. S.), 1826) should be stabilised as the name to be used for this common fossil species. It is therefore requested that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should:—

(1) use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the specific name *listeri* Mantell, 1822, as published in the combination

Belemnites listeri, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

- (2) place the specific name *listeri* Mantell, 1822, as published in the combination *Belemnites listeri* and as proposed, in (1) above, to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) place the specific name *minimus* Miller (J. S.), 1826, as published in the combination *Belemnites minimus*, on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

**SUPPORT FOR DR. J. PACLT'S PROPOSAL TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME
"MELANARGIA" MEIGEN, 1828 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER LEPIDOPTERA)**

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(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)708)

(For Dr. Paclt's application see 1954, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 9 (7); 221-222)

(Letter dated 18th May 1954)

Es ist drigend zu wünschen, da dieser seit mehr als 100 Jahren fast ausschließlich allein gebrauchte Name *Melanargia* auf die *Official List* gesetzt wird, zumal er durch die auffallende Erscheinung der Art besonders weitgehend Eingang in allgemeine Werke, Lehr- und Handbücher gefunden hat. Der Vorschlag von Dr. J. Paclt entspricht besonders der Forderung der Präambel der künftigen *Revidierten Regeln* auf Stabilität und Universalität der Nomenklatur, denen alle anderen Vorschriften unterzuordnen seien.